

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing an electronic document corresponding to a hardcopy of the document, comprising the steps of:
- creating and storing the electronic document;
 - placing a mark on the hardcopy corresponding to the stored electronic document, the mark containing identification information for retrieval of the stored electronic document and processing information of the electronic document;
 - viewing the hardcopy by an image capture device to capture an image of the hardcopy document, wherein the image capture device is activated by waving a copy of the hardcopy document in front of the image capture device;
 - decoding the mark from the image captured by the image capture device to determine the identification information of the electronic document and the processing information of the electronic document;
 - retrieving the electronic document based on the determined identification information of the electronic document; and
 - processing the retrieved electronic document according to the processing information.
- 2 (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of placing a mark on the hardcopy is performed by creating the mark at the time of creation of the electronic document and wherein the hardcopy, with the mark, is printed from the electronic document.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of placing a mark is performed by a printer that prints a digital mark on the hardcopy document.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of placing a mark is performed by [[a]] copying the hardcopy having a mark to create another hardcopy with the mark.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mark is a bar code.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the mark is a two dimensional bar code.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of processing the document includes retrieving the document for viewing.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of processing the document includes the step of mailing the document by electronic mail.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of processing the document includes the step of the printing the document.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of processing the document includes the step of making a copy of the electronic document.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mark is machine readable code formed on a substrate on which the hardcopy is printed.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the machine readable code is formed using font pattern modification including one of a half-tone screen, inter-character spacing modification, and dithering patterns.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the machine readable code is formed on a particular location in the hardcopy document.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mark is a digital mark.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of placing a mark is performed by a printing press that prints the mark during bulk printing.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of processing the electronic document includes invoking a software application to process the electronic document.

J 18. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of processing the electronic document includes identifying and processing based on any intellectual property rights associated with the hardcopy documents.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of processing the electronic document includes calculating and allocating revenues or costs associated with the hardcopy document.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for processing an electronic document corresponding to a hardcopy of the electronic document, the system comprising:

a data storage device that stores the electronic document;

a mark encoder that encodes a mark on the hardcopy corresponding to the stored electronic document, the mark indicative of identification information for retrieval of the stored electronic document and processing information for the electronic document;

an image capture device that captures an image of the hardcopy including the mark, wherein the image capture device is configured to be activated by waving the hardcopy in front of the image capture device;

a decoder, operatively connected to the image capture device, for decoding the identification information and the processing information from the mark from the image captured by the image capture device; and

a processing unit, connected to the decoder and the data storage device, that retrieves the electronic document based on the identification information and processes the electronic document in accordance with the decoded processing information.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein the processing unit processes the electronic document by one of sending by electronic mail, printing, or copying of the electronic document.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of processing an electronic document corresponding to a hardcopy of the document, comprising the steps of:

creating and storing the electronic document;

receiving a voice input indicative of an annotation or processing instruction for the document;

placing a mark on the hardcopy, the mark containing identification information for retrieval of the stored electronic document and the annotation or processing instruction for the document received from the voice input;

viewing the hardcopy by an image capture device to capture an image of the hardcopy document;

decoding the mark from the image captured by the image capture device to determine the identification information and the processing instruction for the electronic document;

retrieving the electronic document based on the determined identification information;

and

processing the retrieved electronic document according to the annotation or processing instruction.
